



2014 BHEARD Scholar
Albert George Makumba

Profile

Country of Study:	South Africa
University:	University of Pretoria
Department:	Plant Production and Soil Science
Student Position:	Graduate Research Assistant — MSc
Home Country:	Malawi
Home Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security
Home Position:	Agriculture Officer
Mentored By:	Pretoria: Dr. Diana Marais (Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences) Malawi: Prof. Moses B. Kwapata

Research Area: Crop and Soil Science

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: January 2015

HOMETOWN: Lilongwe, Malawi

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Crop and Soil Sciences, Agronomic Science

Albert's objective is to gain a Masters in Crop and Soil Sciences in the area of Agronomic Science at the University of Pretoria in RSA and to gain advanced knowledge and practical understanding in terms of Research and Extension. He plans to achieve this goal through advanced courses and research work. Albert's research will enable him to develop the knowledge needed to enhance agricultural growth as well as food security and, in the process, "create wealth" and reduce hunger, among small holder farmers without ignoring the challenges of the urban poor. Albert hopes to bring the knowledge gained through research and education to the people who need it most, i.e. farmers and extension workers in Malawi.

"I want to see the poor Malawian farmer wake up, be agriculturally more productive, and realize their yield potential per hectare," says Albert. "My undergraduate degree was in Crop Sciences,

which is a very broad field. It has given me an excellent background in Plant Botany, Crop Physiology, Plant Breeding, Plant Pathology, Seed Science and Technology. This gave me valuable experience and knowledge relating to crop ontogeny and agronomy.”

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Albert describes himself as a self-motivated and enthusiastic person who enjoys working in challenging environments. His goal is to become a researcher in crop science, especially in the field of Agronomy. Albert has a great passion to help Malawian smallholder farmers to improve and sustain their productivity with improved soil fertility through ecologically sound management strategies.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending my time with his family, travelling, or watching soccer. Albert also loves listening to music, reading biographies, cooking, and nature.